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EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005



The Center for Watershed Protection

Using EPA's capacity building grant, the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) conducted seven Watershed Institutes for practitioners from across the country, reaching a broad mix of local officials, government agencies, and watershed groups. Designed to equip leaders with the skills, tools, and confidence to assess, design, and implement effective programs in their home watersheds, the Institute combines classroom time, design exercises, and field visits. When the formal training ends, the learning continues for the organizations in their home watersheds through consultations and extensive online resources.

Milestones in CWP's Institute training include:

- Leveraged more than \$1.5 million in local watershed implementation activity for groups across the country
- Generated 110 new programs on watershed restoration, protection, and stormwater management techniques
- Trained more than 800 watershed professionals
- Generated 14,000 person hours of training
- Matched over \$400,000 of non-federal funds to conduct the Institutes

After graduating, members of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association used their new skills in planning and restoration to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for Little Lick Creek. This effort brought together experienced partners from local governments and the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Working with the City of Durham, the partners successfully linked watershed assessments to infrastructure maintenance programs, illicit discharge enforcement measures, stormwater program requirements, and the development of regional indices for stream quality. Restoration projects are now being prioritized.

The Bronx River Alliance (BRA) worked with CWP to build their technical capacity in identifying watershed restoration projects. Working with CWP, the alliance organized and interpreted data from field assessments to generate candidate restoration opportunities and identify next steps for implementation.



Institute participants learn methods to assess stream health, such as identifying insects that live in streams.

"I learned how to think about my watershed work in a totally new way. I have been so focused on water quality improvement and remediation projects that I never thought about how land conservation and the health of my forests affect my streams. I now have a much more holistic perspective."

– Watershed Institute Participant